

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 35

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THE BELLEVILLE
ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 35

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees are moving ahead with the reclamation and improvement plans for Banotai Park.
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LEDGER STAR
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Inkster residents can now learn more about enrolling in the new Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to get Internet service for free.
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Wayne police continue to seek the man who broke into St. Mary School in the early morning of Wednesday, Sept. 1.
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THE WESTLAND
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School crossing guards in Westland went back to classrooms themselves recently as police conducted training sessions to help keep children safe.
See page 6.

Future visioning process continues in Romulus

The recently launched community visioning process - “Vision Romulus - Our Community, Our Future” - will conclude Sept. 12.

Officials said that participation in the survey has been extensive and that there is still time to complete the survey at <https://lab2.future-iq.com/vision-romulus/>. Printed copies are available at Romulus City Hall and can be completed at home and returned before the deadline. The survey, however, was only the first of many opportunities for community input, according to city officials.

The next step in the visioning process is the “Think-

”
We hope everyone will participate in this very important Think-Tank.

Tank” workshop, one of the key engagement events for the overall visioning process. This scenario-planning workshop will take place from 5:30 until 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 and Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Romulus Senior Center, 36525 Bibbins St. in Romulus. Refreshments and registration will take place between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

Community members are asked to register to participate

in the Think-Tank. Registration is available at: <https://lab2.future-iq.com/vision-romulus/> or with the mayor's office at (734) 942-7571. The deadline to register is Monday, Sept.19. It is preferable for community members to attend both sessions as the first session informs the second session, organizers said.

“This visioning process provides an opportunity for us to hear directly from community

members and help create a shared vision for our future looking out to 2030,” said Romulus Mayor Robert A. McCraith. “Vision Romulus - Our Community, Our Future aims to give residents of all ages a collective voice in shaping the future of Romulus. We hope everyone will participate in this very important Think-Tank.”

The Think-Tank process will help define a broad vision, values, goals and potential directions for Romulus looking out to 2030. It is a highly participatory process that will produce a

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Community readies for Fall Festival

One of the most popular events in the community is set to begin tomorrow with the return of the Plymouth Fall Festival to downtown streets.

The weekend event will feature carnival rides, hometown booths, a craft show, the popular car show, entertainment on the Main Stage in Kellogg Park, a huge Bingo game, the traditional Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, the Party Tent and much more along with the Sunday Rotary Chicken Barbeque. Attractions and events differ each day, organizers said, and there is a complete schedule available on the website and a printed Fall Festival guide available at no cost throughout the community.

Each and every vendor or attraction at the event must be sponsored by a non-profit community entity, ensuring that the event is charity driven and a proven boost to civic contributions to various community efforts. Several of the service clubs involved provide scholarships to local students and all fund local charitable and civic efforts.

Organizers expect about 20,000 visitors to the community during the weekend and the most important piece of advice city officials offer regarding the event is the same every year: Use the free shuttle service provided by Praise Community Church.

The church has been offering



the free service for the festival for several years and more and more festival visitors are discovering just how convenient and comfortable the shuttles are. Qualified drivers deliver passengers from the large church parking lot at 45000 North Territorial Road to the center of the fun near Plymouth City Hall. The drivers are all experienced volunteers who are familiar with the local traffic patterns and area. The late-model vans are also air conditioned and provide ample room for any souvenirs acquired during the visit.

The church is located about a

quarter mile west of Sheldon Road on North Territorial and is an easy find and quick shuttle ride to and from downtown Plymouth. The vans begin operating from the church about a half hour before the festival opens each day and continue transporting passengers until about a half hour after the event closes, or longer if necessary. Church officials stressed that they have never left anyone behind.

The vans leave the church in about half-hour intervals, or more often if there are passengers waiting. “Anybody who

shows up for a ride gets one,” officials stressed. Passengers can wait in the air-conditioned church building should the weekend include some of the high temperatures seen earlier this summer.

The shuttle ride and parking are both free. City officials noted that in all the years the church has been offering the shuttle service, there have been no reported problems.

“It’s a great convenience and helps alleviate some of the traffic parking situations downtown during the weekend,” organizers said.

Canton celebrates completion of road reconstruction



Area officials along with Wayne County Executive Warren Evans celebrated the reconstruction section of a section of Canton Center Road last week. The area between Ford and Warren roads is set to open to traffic Sept. 12. Photo by David Willett

Canton Township and Wayne County officials were on hand last week to ceremoniously open a reconstructed section of Canton Center Road.

The object of near constant complaints, the section of Canton Center from Ford to Warren Road has been under construction for more than four months. While officials cut an opening ribbon and spoke briefly about the importance of the project, the road is not expected to open until next week when road striping is complete. A grinding of the road surface will also be completed before it is open to traffic to

See **Audit**, page 4

PLYMOUTH - WAYNE

Death of Plymouth celebrity mourned

Stella, a Bernese Mountain Dog who became one of the iconic figures in Plymouth, died Sept. 1, according to her owner and best friend Bob Ostendorf.

Stella, who was immensely popular, was the mascot and namesake of Stella's Black Dog Tavern and was the subject of a children's book. She and Ostendorf were a familiar sight walking throughout the community. Stella was 12, exceeding the usual life span of her breed, her owner said, and died of cancer.

Stella and Ostendorf were well known for their altruistic efforts in the community. They raised tens of thousands of dollars during Stella's birthday parties for Humane Society of Huron Valley. With Dogtopia, Stella raised enough money to buy and train a service dog for a veteran. She greeted children with Santa in the fire engine as he arrived for the holiday in downtown Plymouth and Stella, a registered service dog, spent countless hours at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor comforting the many veterans who met her.

Stella and Ostendorf visited local schools and had her books read to groups of children. She and Ostendorf were hon-

ored, he said, when the two of them threw out the first pitch at the Miracle League opening day game in 2018.

The large, friendly dog accompanied Ostendorf to "her restaurant" and greeted thousands of guests during the past years, much to the delight of both young and older guests. When Stella was unable to come to the restaurant due to health issues, almost everyone asked after her, Ostendorf said.

Stella spent the last few weeks doing her favorite things, taking truck rides, eating ice cream and liverwurst (yes, sometimes together), devouring rare filets and steaks, watching old movies, and hanging out at the lake. Most importantly, she was almost constantly with Ostendorf, her very favorite person in the world.

Ostendorf expressed his gratitude to all those who cared for Stella and the entire team at "her" restaurant.

"Thank you to everyone who has made her feel so special over the years. She was an extraordinary soul. God was a genius when he created dogs," Ostendorf said.



Bernese Mountain Dog Stella was a celebrity throughout Plymouth, earning funds for several charities and and the subject of a popular book. A registered service dog, she spent hours at the Veterans' Hospital in Ann Arbor visiting patients.



Church break in

Wayne police continue to seek the man who broke into St. Mary School in the early morning of Wednesday, Sept. 1. Video surveillance cameras recorded the incident at about 2 a.m. according to a church spokesman. The man gained entry into the school after throwing a brick through one of the doors facing Michigan Avenue, shattering the glass. Church officials are asking the public for help in identifying the man whom, they said, was in the building for only about two minutes. Anyone with information regarding the incident or who recognizes the man is asked to contact the Wayne Police Department at (734) 721-1414.



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ROMULUS

Community prepares for annual Pumpkin Festival

The 24th Annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival is planned for Sept. 16, 17 and 18 this year at the Romulus Historical Park located at 11147 Hunt St. in the city.

The annual Pumpkin Festival is a three-day event that starts on the third Friday in September and begins with the Parade of Lights, where everything is aglow, from bicycles to cement trucks. The Parade of Lights, sponsored and organized by members of the Romulus Rotary Club, attracts a crowd of thousands, festival organizers said. The parade will begin at 8 p.m. Sept. 16. There is no entry fee for the lighted parade, but all entries must include multiple lights. Applications are available at the Community Development Office in Romulus City Hall, where the completed form should also be returned. All questions about this event must be directed to the Romulus Rotary Facebook Page @RomulusRotary or email romulus.rotary@gmail.com.

Attractions this year also include the Classic Car Show and Craft and Vendor Show. “The event is a celebration of friends and family; a harvest celebration that generates an enthusiastic spirit and regenerates our sense of community,” a spokesperson said. The Pumpkin Festival will also sponsor tasting and digital photo contests leading up to the festival. All entries will be due Sept. 9. Digital photo entries can be submitted online to the festival Facebook page @DowntownRomulus or emailed to cbradley@romulusgov.com. The public will be given a



chance to pick their favorite entries on the Facebook page. Participants in the tasting contests must drop off their entries at the Romulus Senior Center and be judged by Romulus seniors.

Winners for all contests will be announced on Facebook and contacted individually. All entries must include the individual's name, email, and phone number.

Multiple contest entries have already been received, organizers noted, although volunteers to work at the event are still being sought.

Vendor applications are still being accepted and donations are appreciated, organizers said. To volunteer, register or for information, call the Pumpkin Festival Hotline at (734) 955-4577.

Vision

FROM PAGE 1

preferred future scenario for Romulus, validated by the Think-Tank participants, officials said.

“The input from the Romulus community has been fantastic to date with so many thoughtful responses to the community survey. This in-person Think-Tank is the next step in the process, where we will be asking community members to work together to formulate four plausible future scenarios for Romulus,” said David Beurle, CEO of Future iQ and lead facilitator for the

process. He noted that, “Future iQ has used scenario-planning via Think-Tanks across the U.S. and in Europe and Australia for well over a decade.”

The Think-Tank workshop will be followed by another extensive survey and focus group sessions in November. The Romulus Community Vision Plan will be presented in January 2023.

Read more about the project, sign up for information and learn about the extensive community engagement events coming up at the Vision Romulus - Our Community, Our Future website at <https://lab2.future-iq.com/vision-romulus/>

Goodfellows host Witches Night Out

As the Halloween holiday approaches, the Romulus Goodfellows are already thinking about Christmas.

This year the club is organizing the first Witches Night Out in the community as an effort to help fund the annual No Child Without A Christmas campaign.

Witches Night Out is mid-week event that has exploded in popularity across the country during the past few years.

The event has a huge following in several states where it has become a destination event drawing people from surrounding areas to attend the good-natured evening of Halloween celebration.

Attendees come to the event dressed as witches and warlocks and enjoy an evening of

entertainment.

Many plan their costumes long in advance as they prepare for the anticipated costume competitions, organizers noted.

In Romulus, the event is set for 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 at the Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 West Huron River Dr.

The evening will include contests for the best witch costume, the best hat and, of course, the best broom.

There will be 50-50 raffles along with food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Adult beverages will be available at an extra cost.

Witch attire is highly recommended.

The cost for the event is \$30 per witch and the event is limited to those 21 years of age or

older, organizers said.

No Child Without a Christmas has been a project of Goodfellows' organizations and their supporters for nearly a hundred years.

Through their efforts, they have given the gift of a joyous Christmas to thousands of families with children, many of whom would not have had anything on their table or under the tree without the Goodfellows organizations. Romulus Goodfellows, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all contributions made are tax-deductible.

For tickets or information, contact the Goodfellows at (734) 322-7680 or romulusgoodfellows@gmail.com.

Special limited hours - Call for an appointment



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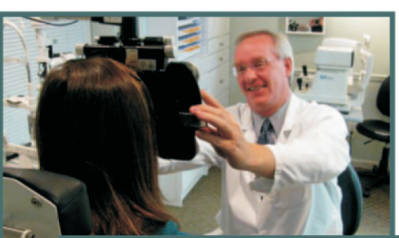
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CANTON - NORTHVILLE

B.L.O.C.K. program registrations now under way

Registration is now under way for the Canton Township Lead #LikeAGirl, Be A #ModelMan, and Youth Advisory Council programs for the 2022-2023 school year. These free programs are available through The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center for local youths who are interested in developing critical life skills, such as self-confidence, interpersonal communication skills, stress management, and leadership skills.

Lead #LikeA Girl was developed in 2015 by The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center. This free program enables participants to challenge themselves, discuss relevant issues that young girls face with their peers, and foster relationships with female role models within the community. This award-winning program serves a diverse group of young women ages 11-16 and is designed to change the way that

these participants, and the community-at-large, think about what it means to Lead #LikeAGirl and ultimately live #LikeAGirl.

Be A #ModelMan, established in 2016, is designed to grow six core values, including: integrity, empathy, compassion, inner strength, courage, and respect. Monthly one-day themed workshops take place from October through May and are designed to inform program participants ages 11-16 about healthy masculinity, leadership and community involvement. In addition, this program curriculum encourages participants to interact and foster relations with public servants and community “model men,” who embody the core values of the program.

The Canton Youth Advisory Council comprises a group of area high school students who make a difference in their community. Members participate in

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Program space is limited,
so applicants are
encouraged to apply early.

community service projects, lead special events, participate in local decision-making, and award annual grants to organizations that benefit Canton Youth.

“Each year, we look forward to getting to work with such a bright and talented group of young people,” said Chelsea Straub, program coordinator. “We watch participants grow into confident, well-spoken, and understanding youth change-makers.”

Program participants must meet one of the following criteria in order to apply: reside in Canton; attend a Canton school; or be a current member of The B.L.O.C.K Youth & Teen Center.

Interested future candidates are encouraged to apply through The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center. Applications are currently available on The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center website at www.cantonfun.org/theblock and must be submitted by Sept. 23. Program space is limited, so applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Local volunteer and financial support have helped these programs expand positive programming opportunities.

Some current and past sponsors include MASCO, Community Financial Credit Union, Eastern Michigan University, and the

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for individuals, businesses, and foundations to assist in the development of future sessions. To become involved, contact Laura Mortier at (734) 394-5376 or email laura.mortier@cantonmi.gov.

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road provides a teen-friendly environment where students from ages 11-17 can participant in supervised afterschool programs, social events, and activities. For more information about Lead #LikeAGirl, Be A #ModelMan, The Youth Advisory Council, or The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, visit www.cantonfun.org/theblock or call (734) 398-5570.

Traditional Victorian Festival returns to Northville

Northville will take a step back in time next weekend with the return of the Victorian Heritage Festival Sept. 16, 17 and 18.

The festival, which takes place in downtown Northville every September, is a celebration of the rich history and small-town charm of the community, organizers from the Northville Chamber of Commerce said.

Incorporated as a village in 1867, the next 10 years saw the founding of the local newspaper, The Northville Record, as well as the first diploma awarded from the local high school and the opening of Parmenter's Cider Mill, a community treasure that sits today on Baseline Road.

“For the last 150 years, Northville has written a fascinating history as the community has grown into the 21st century, while maintaining a respect for tradition and the history of the area. Much of the history of Northville

is available by speaking with members of the Northville Historical Society and visiting Mill Race Village.

“The Victorian Heritage Festival, known also as the Heritage Festival or the Victorian Festival, provides an opportunity for residents of Northville, both past and present, to reminisce, enjoy and celebrate the wonderful town that we have all called home. It's our pleasure to share our community with visitors who come to shop, dine, attend theaters, work and play”, a spokesman from the Chamber of Commerce said.

As has become a cherished tradition, the Victorian Heritage Festival will begin with the Victorian Parade at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept.16. The event will continue with some of the most popular features of the festival throughout the weekend. Festivities conclude on Sunday with the Duck Race at historic



Mill Race Village.

The Victorian Saloon will be open during the weekend and will feature entertainment, along with carriage rides, and the ven-

dor district. The Main Stage downtown will have entertainment from noon until 9 p.m. Saturday and from noon until 4 p.m. Victorian Sunday will be cel-

ebrated at Mill Race Village.

For an event schedule and information, visit www.northville.org or www.millracenorthville.org.

Township forum planned

Northville Township officials are hosting a Master Plan Forum open to all residents. The forum will provide introductory information and allow community members to provide key input on how the township can develop moving forward. Organizers are hoping to learn which features and amenities are most popular with residents and issues residents consider challenges facing the township.

The forum is an effort to coordinate a vision for the

future to help guide the Northville Township Master Plan effort.

The forum will take place from 5:50 until 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in the Lower Level Training Room at Northville Township Hall, located at 44405 Six Mile Road. A presentation will be given at 6:15 p.m. and stations with more information will be available throughout the meeting for citizens' review and input.

For more information, visit <https://ntwp.org/3PUsFn7>.

Road

FROM PAGE 1

ensure that the roadway is completely smooth.

“This is the first five-lane road replacement project Canton has ever done,” noted Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak. “The three-phase project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.”

She also emphasized the importance of the reconstruction to safety in the township noting that emergency vehicles will no longer have to attempt to drive around potholes when responding to calls for service. In addition, she said, studies show that

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The three-phase project
was completed ahead of
schedule and under budget.

35,000 to 45,000 cars travel that section of road every day.

“It's an important road and that's why it needed to be fixed as soon as possible,” she said.

“This project was a true partnership between Canton, the State of Michigan and Wayne County. By working together as a team, we were able to fix the road properly and in a timely manner,” she added.

Helping celebrate the almost-

opening were Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Wayne County Commissioner Melissa Daub, State Rep. Ranjeev Puri and State Sen. Dayna Polehanki.

Puri, who represents the 21st District in Lansing, said that before the reconstruction, the section of Canton Center Road was so treacherous and rough, his vehicle would shift into the off-road driving mode when attempting to drive that section.

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SUMPTER

Park reclamation plans moving forward

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees are moving ahead with the reclamation and improvement plans for Banotai Park.

During the Aug. 23 meeting, trustees approved the appointment of Township Supervisor Tim Bowman, Township Manager Tony Burdick and attorney Rob Young as representatives to review the plans and design of the park and Sherwood Pond. All plans and designs would be presented to the board members for consideration.

The board members also approved a contract with Wade Hoppe, an architect from Davenport Brothers Construction, to prepare a design and master plan along with four associated designs for the new Sumpter Township Fairgrounds at a cost of \$11,500.

Young explained that the improvements at the park would be part of a 5-year plan of improvements. He said the design would be included as part of a larger plan that would eventually come before the board for approval.

Township Manager Tony Burdick explained that Carlisle, Workman and Associates (CWA) the township outside planning firm, was currently working on updating a new township master plan as the latest plan expired in December. He said there is currently a parks and recreation plan incorporated into that proposal. Burdick added that there is a survey for input from residents on township recreation needs on the township website.

In response to a question from Trustee Don LaPorte, Hoppe explained that the plans for the fairground would include phases of development and building at the site but would not include construction prices.

“The whole idea of a master plan for the fairgrounds is that you are going to stage it so that you build this piece, later add another piece and then finally add another,” Hoppe said. “We’re going to get a land survey as part of the proposal then we will overlay on that survey all of the functions we want see happen. All of the pedestrian circulation, the vehicular circulation, all of those things. The idea is to build a little piece of this right now. The proposal is the gateway into it so it is the curb cut into the fairgrounds.

Some landscaping from the decorative arch, signage, that sort of thing. That’s the only piece we’re building at this point. But when you come back to build something else, then you’ll know where each of the components are supported.”

LaPorte said he was enthusiastic about the plans. “I am really interested to see all of this,” he said. I give the supervisor a lot of credit and hopefully the board can support and get behind this. It is something that is needed for the community, some place for people to meet and greet and have functions, so I think it’s a good idea.”

Board members approved the contract with Trustee Peggy Morgan casting the only no vote.

I give the supervisor a lot of credit and hopefully the board can support and get behind this.

Manager responds to questions about fencing bid

Sumpter Township Manager Anthony Burdick put questions about a recent bid award for work at the township fairgrounds to rest during the Aug. 23 meeting.

While there may have been some confusion regarding the bid specifications, Burdick said each bidder was offered an opportunity to reexamine the bid documents to “confirm their bids” prior to the awarding of the contract to Davenport Fence.

During the audience comment portion of the agenda, Eric Partridge expressed his disappointment and concern that the contract for fencing at the fairground was awarded to the highest bidder and noted that Allied, the low bidder was, \$18,000 less. He said it was a serious concern that township taxpayers were being asked “to pay double” for fencing at the fairgrounds.

Partridge, who the second-lowest bidder, became increasingly agitated as he questioned the board motives and suggested wrongdoing on the part of the trustees and township attorney Rob Young. He complained that there was no master plan in place for the fairgrounds and said the board members had “the cart before the horse.”

Before abruptly leaving the meeting he accused the trustees of being corrupt.

Burdick requested permission from Township Supervisor Tim Bowman, who chaired the meeting, to respond, and explained that he realized there were “varying degrees of understanding” of the bid specifications due to some confusion in the bid documents.

“I asked each of them to confirm their bids so that I knew they understood. Some bidders included work that was not arguably part of the bid,” Burdick explained.

Confusion regarding the requirement for commercial-grade rather than residential fencing and the scope of the work may have led to the confusion, trustees said. Burdick said he contacted each bidder, including Allied, the main topic of Partridge’s comments. Burdick said no one from Allied responded, so the bid was not submitted for consideration.

Burdick noted that in an ensuing conversation, an Allied representative admitted the specification clarification had “been missed” leaving the bid as submitted.

Deputy Supervisor/Trustee Tim Rush reminded the audience that the board is not obligated or required to ever accept the lowest bid on a project but to consider what is best for the township.

I asked each of them to confirm their bids so that I knew they understood.

Parks administrator named

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees have named Township Manager Anthony Burdick as interim parks director.

Burdick will now be the main source of communication with the board members regarding park grants and other matters. Trustee Matthew Oddy noted that the new designation would not change or interfere with the work of the Parks and Recreation Commission or Park Grants Administrator Sharon Pokerwinski.

Oddy said this was an effort only to centralize communications about the grants available from the county.

The designation was unanimously approved by trustees during the Aug. 23 meeting.

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I'M PROTECTING THOSE WHO PROTECT ME.

Mask up to protect others.

PUBLIC HEARING
CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A public hearing on the proposed 2023 budget for the Canton Public Library will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** The library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1600. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the library.

Eva Davis
Library Director



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Kellogg Park in Downtown Plymouth, Michigan

11:00am - until SOLD OUT

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DRIVE THROUGH PICKUP AVAILABLE AT
West Middle School, Sheldon and Ann Arbor Trail

Inkster - Westland

Free internet program offered by Comcast

Inkster residents can now learn more about enrolling in the new Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to get Internet service for free. Any Xfinity customer across all Comcast markets who qualifies for ACP can apply their \$30 credit toward their monthly Internet and/or Xfinity Mobile bill. Customers can also sign up for Internet Essentials Plus, a service that includes 100 Mbps speed, a cable modem, access to millions of WiFi hotspots, and unlimited data for \$29.95 per month. The Inkster Verizon store offering the

enrollment help is located at 27195 Cherry Hill Road. In addition, through Project UP, Comcast's \$1B commitment to advance digital equity and help build a future of unlimited possibilities, the company is partnering with its network of thousands of non-profit organizations in communities across the country to increase awareness of, and participation in, ACP. During the last six months, Comcast has distributed well over \$1 million dollars in grants to support dozens of local non-profits affiliated with the

During the last six months, Comcast has distributed well over \$1 million dollars in grants .

Hispanic Federation and the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC), as well organizations such as NPower, with plans to invest millions more throughout the year. “We’ve never been more committed to closing the digital

divide and helping people get connected to the Internet through Project UP. By working with our partners at all levels of government and within the community, we can accelerate our efforts to ensure everyone has access to the Internet and the

skills they need to excel in today's digital economy,” said Broderick Johnson, executive vice president, Public Policy and Digital Equity, Comcast. In addition to retail, customers can visit www.xfinity.com/acp, www.internetessentials.com, or call (844) 389-4681 for more information, to determine eligibility, and sign up. A dedicated ACP Enrollment and Support Center is available from 8 a.m. until midnight daily, with multi-lingual capabilities to assist anyone interested in the program.

Safety first Westland provides training for school crossing guards

School crossing guards in Westland went back to classrooms themselves recently as police conducted training sessions to help keep children safe. The program is new and innovative, a police spokesman said. This remodeled approach includes a much broader and more expansive outlook on child safety, he added. The new school crossing guard program has a much more inclusive response to child safety including training in CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) and first aid certification. The new program also offers the crossing guards training in response to missing children and lockdown procedures. While the police will respond to those situations, the spokesman said, help from crossing guards dealing directly with children will help in any crisis situation. This year, some crossing guards will be assigned to work in school parking lots. Their duties are not only assist with

traffic flow, but also to assure the safety of the children in the parking areas. Additionally, this year schools and crossing guards will be equipped with radios to facilitate quicker communication in the event of emergencies or any situation that may require a quick response. The improvement of the school crossing guard program helps to put more responsible eyes and ears outside of the schools, the spokesman noted. “The department's goal is to provide children with a safer school experience and allow children to be comfortable and secure while walking to school,” he added. Crossing guards recently attended workshop sessions to learn the new procedures involved in the new responsibilities. “The Westland Police Department would like to sincerely thank our outstanding crossing guards who have



Crossing guards in Westland went 'back to school' recently to learn new safety techniques from members of the Westland Police Department as part of a new safety program in the community.

embraced their newly expanded roles,” the spokesman continued. “We appreciate their willingness to learn and adapt to in order to improve safety for our children.”

Tree brought down by storm

The storm last week caused damage and fires throughout the area as high winds took down power lines causing multiple fires throughout the area. In Westland, a huge tree was apparently struck by lightning and fell, nearly missing one home and landing on two cars parked on Markey Street. The 50-foot tree crashed into the vehicles parked near the home of Steven Novak last Monday, Aug. 29. Novak said

he heard a loud cracking noise which roused him from his living room along with his wife and young son. He said he felt "very lucky" that his family avoided injury. In addition to the damage to the two parked cars, large branches of the falling tree damaged the home of Stephan Rodwell, scraping the corner of the roof of the house. No estimate of damage was available at press time.

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These calls help to combat social isolation, improve a person's well-being, and provide a warm, **friendly** voice for them to talk with.

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- * Access to a landline or cell phone
- * Be able to provide an emergency contact

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